

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Background Research

Prior to the initiation of the Church Road Improvements project, background research was conducted. This background research included the examination of the NRHP and the historic resources inventory files located at the Delaware SHPO in Dover; reports documenting previously conducted cultural resource studies in the vicinity; relevant state-wide historic contexts; historic maps; and historic as-built roadway plans housed at the DelDOT office in Dover.

The background research indicated that four resources in or near the project APE had previously been surveyed: the Biddle House (N-5064), located just north of the APE, at the intersection of Church Road and the railroad tracks; the Red Lion United Methodist Church (N-498), located just north of the intersection of Church Road and Red Lion Road; a resource referred to as Ag Cx (apparently, Agricultural Complex, N-5065), located across Church Road from the church; and N-1237, the Silver Farmhouse (Appendix A). Survey update forms have been submitted for the Red Lion Methodist Church, Ag Cx, and Silver Farmhouse. The Biddle House is outside of the project APE. Its NRHP eligibility is assessed in *A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the Church Road Highway Improvement Project Area, New Castle Hundred, Delaware* (Traver and Thomas 2001).

2.2 Field Investigations

A field investigation to identify historic resources within the APE was undertaken in September 2003. Additional research was completed in November 2003. Each resource built prior to 1960 was photographed using 35 mm black and white photography, including those resources previously surveyed but lacking a NRHP evaluation. At that time, a total of 18 resources were identified as meeting the age criteria. Their locations are shown on Figure 2. For resources where this had not been done previously, Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) numbers were assigned to the resources. More detailed background research was also undertaken of the project region and of specific resources within the APE at the Delaware Historical Society in Wilmington, the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds in Wilmington, and the Red Lion United Methodist Church in Red Lion.